

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY
AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

1. This document is submitted by the Standing Committee and the Secretariat and has been prepared by Mexico as Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*, in collaboration with the Secretariat.
2. The present document fulfills the report obligations of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 16.14 and 16.16 e) concerning IPBES. The full suite of Decisions on this subject adopted by the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16; Bangkok, 2013), read as follows:

Decisions 16.13 to 16.16 on IPBES	
Also available at: http://www.cites.org/eng/dec/valid16/183	
16.13	<p><i>Directed to the Parties</i></p> <p>a) Parties should consider promoting actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the national and international levels, including through the governing body of IPBES, as appropriate; and</p> <p>b) bearing in mind that IPBES consolidation remains in process, Parties are invited to provide inputs to the Secretariat in order to provide timely responses to IPBES in regard to CITES involvement.</p>
16.14	<p><i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i></p> <p>At its 64th meeting, the Standing Committee shall establish a Working Group on IPBES, including the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to assist its efforts to ensure that:</p> <p>a) there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES as well as a contributor to IPBES;</p> <p>b) communication between CITES and IPBES for the conveyance of government requests is effective;</p> <p>d) the development of the work programme for IPBES takes into account the needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and related trade decisions; and</p> <p>d) CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines, particularly the deadline of 5 May 2013 for requests to and suggestions for the initial IPBES work programme.</p>

The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

	<p>The intersessional working group shall report to the Standing Committee at its 65th and 66th meetings.</p> <p>Any inputs to IPBES developed by the intersessional working group shall, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee, be conveyed to IPBES by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.</p> <p>The Standing Committee shall consider at its 66th meeting the need for drafting a resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES.</p> <p>The Standing Committee shall report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.</p>
16.15	<p><i>Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees</i></p> <p>The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of Decision 16.14; subject to external funds, participate as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and report regularly to the Standing Committee on their activities under paragraph a) above.
16.16	<p><i>Directed to the Secretariat</i></p> <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> under the policy guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, and in cooperation with the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on IPBES, established pursuant to Decision 16.14, continue to track and contribute to the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies; subject to external funds, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES; explore with other biodiversity-related conventions possible means for facilitating cooperation between the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the IPBES Secretariat, once the latter is established; seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat; and Report regularly to the Standing Committee, as well as at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the results of this work.

Background (since CoP16 to SC65)

- The Working Group referred to in Decision 16.14 was established at the 64th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC64, Bangkok 2013), with Mexico (Mr. Hesiquio Benitez) as Chair and with the following composition: a) representatives from Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America; b) the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Secretariat; and c) representatives from the European Commission, IUCN and WWF International.
- The Working Group has focused on promoting and following closely the adoption and development of the *“Thematic assessment on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools”*, which during the second meeting of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-2, 9 to 14 December 2013; Antalya, Turkey) was incorporated in the Platform’s Programme of Work (2014-2018) under task force 3(b)(i) (Thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration) as deliverable 3(b)(iii).
- Progress in the implementation of Decisions 16.13 to 16.16 since their adoption at CoP16 (2013) up until July 2014 is summarized in the following working documents of joint sessions of the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (AC27/PC21, 2-3 May 2014; Veracruz) and of the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65, 7-11 July 2014; Geneva):
 - AC27/PC21 Doc. 8.1, available at: <http://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac-pc/ac27-pc21/E-AC27-PC21-08-01.pdf>; and
 - SC65 Doc. 16.5, available at: http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/E-SC65-16-05_0.pdf

6. Among the main outcomes regarding the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity (SUB) assessment from the above mentioned meetings, the following stand out:
 - a) The joint AC27/PC21 meeting (Veracruz, 2014) developed recommendations to guide the nomination of experts by CITES on the development of IPBES deliverable 3(b)(iii) (see par. 9, Annex to document SC65 Doc. 8.1); and
 - b) On the basis of the AC27/PC21 outcomes, SC65 agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification inviting Parties to nominate experts to the assessment as soon as the IPBES Secretariat issued an invitation for said nominations.

Progress achieved regarding the SUB assessment under IPBES and CITES since 2014 to the date

7. 3rd Plenary of the IPBES (12-17 January, 2015; Bonn, Germany): Decisions on the IPBES work programme for 2014-2018 contained in the meeting report for IPBES-3 (see document IPBES/3/18 at <http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-3.html#one>) show that the thematic assessment on sustainable use (see part IV, para 4) will start this year with a rapid scoping process. As reflected in a visual graphic that will be posted on the IPBES website, the assessment will be done as a self-standing global, thematic assessment but the issue will also be picked up in the regional/subregional assessments and the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Before this decision, there was some concern that the sustainable use assessment (which was part of the work programme agreed at IPBES-2) might not be addressed or might be folded into regional assessments as proposed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel/Bureau for reasons of limited human and financial resources. In view of good support for an 'independent' sustainable use assessment from a number of States and the Secretariat, however, a self-standing assessment was maintained. The Secretariat represented CITES at this meeting.
8. On 5 February 2015, the IPBES Chair issued a call for nominations, for (1) a set of regional and subregional assessments, (2) a thematic assessment of land degradation and (3) the scoping of a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services. There was no marked reference to the thematic assessment on sustainable use, so neither the Secretariat nor the SC Working Group realized that this was a call for nominations for that assessment. After the nomination deadline of 5 April 2015 had passed, the SC Working Group learned that the call also stated that the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), in consultation with the Bureau, had recommended that: "Scoping for the assessments on invasive alien species" (Deliverable 3bii) and on "sustainable use of biodiversity" (Deliverable 3biii)] be performed by experts also involved in the regional and subregional assessments (Deliverable 2b). Governments and organizations making nominations for regional and subregional assessments should therefore ensure that these nominations include experts on invasive alien species, and on sustainable use of biodiversity(see: http://www.ipbes.net/images/documents/press/20150205_Letter_from_IPBES_Chair_Nomination.pdf).
9. Following consultations between the Chair of the SC Working Group and the CITES Secretariat, it was decided that the Secretariat should contact the IPBES Secretariat for information on the outcomes of the call for nominations and how the Convention might be able to contribute to scoping of the assessment on sustainable use of biodiversity.
10. There are now 124 member States of IPBES and the current composition of the MEP can be found at <http://www.ipbes.net/index.php/about-ipbes/current-mep-members>.
11. The 4th meeting of the MEP was held in Bonn, Germany in July 2014, during the same week as SC65, so none of the Chairs or Vice-chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees were able to attend even though external funds for such attendance has been provided by the European Union. The Secretariat therefore asked the Chair of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) whether he would be able to advise it whether any issues of particular relevance to CITES were considered. Following the MEP4, the Ramsar STRP Chair provided the Secretariat with a summary of key points relevant to CITES. He noted in particular that there was discussion about coordinating the thematic and regional assessments and that a proposal to this effect would be developed. The thematic assessments would be done as separate end products but would be issued at the same time as the regional assessments. He also noted that CITES was mentioned quite positively in connection with its preparations for the sustainable use assessment.
12. The 5th meeting of the MEP was held in Bonn during April 2015. Once again, none of the Chairs or Vice-chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees were able to attend, noting that attendance could be supported by external funds provided by the European Union. The Chairs therefore asked Dr Moustafa

Fouda (Alternate Regional Representative for Africa on the Animals Committee and MEP member from Africa) to advise them whether any issues of particular relevance to CITES were considered.

13. Expert group discussions under a UNEP project on biodiversity synergies have suggested that the Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB) could be used more effectively to strengthen cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions in relation to IPBES.
14. On August 14th, the Chair of IPBES sent a letter to IPBES member states and observers inviting interested experts, practitioners, decision makers and knowledge holders to register for participation in an e-conference organized by IPBES to review and further develop the initial scoping for: a) the thematic assessment on invasive alien species and their control (Deliverable 3bii); and, b) the thematic assessment on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools (Deliverable 3biii; SUB assessment). The letter is available at:
<http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5da0fed71c7e4399fb28ab549&id=a238cea7c3>
15. Through Notification to the Parties No. 2015/051, CITES Parties were encouraged to participate in the e-conference, and in particular in the discussions related to the SUB assessment since it responds to a request submitted to IPBES by CITES. The e-conference was held through three sessions during the period from 7-25 September 2015; where some members from the Plants and Animals Committee participated on behalf of CITES to attempt to make sure the resulting draft scoping document reflects the original idea of the SUB assessment as initially posed by CITES.
16. At the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee AC28, the Chair of SC's Working Group on IPBES (Mr. Benitez) presented document AC28 Doc 6.1, which recommended the AC to:
 - Take note of the progress on the implementation of IPBES related Decisions, and encourage Parties to follow the upcoming nominations of experts in particular those related to the Sustainable Use Assessment.
 - In keeping with Decision 16.15, provide additional information, if any, on the activities of the AC Chair in assisting the Standing Committee with the implementation of Decision 16.14; and
 - Consider whether and how the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB), when serving as observers to the MEP, should coordinate more closely with each other.

Additionally, the Chair of SC working group on IPBES highlighted that CITES progress regarding non-detriment findings (NDF) should represent the core of the Convention's contribution to IPBES SUB assessment.

The Animals Committee took note of document AC28 Doc. 6.1 and its recommendations. Furthermore, the alternate representative for Europe (Mr. Vincent Fleming) encouraged the AC to participate in the e-conference.

17. In order to reflect the concerns of CITES Parties, members of the Animals and Plants Committee participated in the e-conference. The draft scoping document for the SUB assessment resulting from the e-conference (available in [PC22 Inf. 4](#)) will be submitted for consideration of the 6th meeting of IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (9-11 October, 2015, Bonn), where Ms. Carolina Cáceres (Chair of the Animals Committee) participated as an observer from CITES. With her participation and the support of many MEP members, the SUB assessment excluded consideration of aquaculture and tourism, and instead focused solely on the harvest of wild resources subject to trade. The scoping document of the SUB assessment as agreed by the MEP is included in **Annex 2** of the present document.
18. The 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee considered document PC22 Doc. 7.1 (Rev. 1) on IPBES, which in addition to the above updates, included a recommendation for the Plants Committee to further guide the work of the SC's working group on IPBES in view of the present meeting, as well as the 4th session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-4) to be held in February 2016. The Plants Committee noted the document and encouraged Parties to contact their national IPBES focal points and provide their views regarding the draft IPBES scoping report for a thematic assessment of sustainable use of biodiversity which will be considered at IPBES-4.

19. Based on the progress described, at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66) Mexico (as Chair of the Working Group) presented document SC66 Doc. 16.4 on IPBES. After consideration, the SC endorsed the recommendations contained in pars. 19 and 20 of the document, specifically
 - a) The SC recognized that at present there is no need for a Resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES; and
 - b) Agreed to submit for consideration of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) the revisions (updates) to Decisions 16.13 to 16.15 contained in **Annex 1** of the present document.
20. At its 4th plenary (IPBES-4, Kuala Lumpur, 22-28 February 2016) IPBES, attended by the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat representing CITES, considered the document agreed by MEP on the “Scoping for a thematic assessment of sustainable use of biodiversity (deliverable 3 (b) (iii))” (**Annex 2** of the present document), as outcome of the discussions, IPBES agreed to undertake (in compliance with applicable procedures) a further scoping of the SUB assessment initiated in pursuant to decision IPBES-3/1, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the platforms deliverables set out in the annex to decision IPBES-2/3, including by:
 - a) Organizing a face to face scoping workshop of experts, involving relevant stakeholders, to produce a revised draft scoping report for the assessment that gives consideration to the revision of the title of the assessment;
 - b) Organizing an open review of the revised draft scoping report by Governments and stakeholders; and
 - c) Preparing a revised scoping report for the assessment for consideration by the Plenary at its fifth session.
21. In compliance with the agreements above, on March 11th 2016, IPBES Secretariat published a letter directed to its Member States and Observers (<http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5da0fed71c7e4399fb28ab549&id=e546c21a52>) calling for the nomination of experts to participate in this exercise (as well as on the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services [Deliverable 2c]) with 5 May 2016 as deadline.
22. In response, the Secretariat published Notification to the Parties No. 2016/036 on 1 April 2016, (<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2016-036.pdf>) encouraging Parties to nominate experts with the required skills and an understanding of the needs of CITES Parties, in order for the implementation of the Convention to fully benefit from the SUB assessment.
23. In line compliance with Decision 16.16 c), the Secretariat explored with other biodiversity-related conventions, possible means for facilitating cooperation between the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the IPBES Secretariat. At IPBES-4 a draft *Memorandum of cooperation between Members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* was presented to the Plenary. However, the Plenary preferred that the IPBES Secretariat finalize memoranda of cooperation with the secretariats of the individual BLG members bilaterally, rather than through a single memorandum of cooperation signed by all of them.
24. The Secretariat wishes to thank the European Union for the generous support which allowed CITES to be represented at IPBES meetings as detailed in the present document.

Recommendations

25. Take note of the progress on IPBES achieved by the Standing Committee and its working group and by the Secretariat.
26. Adopt the revisions to decisions 16.13 to 16.15 contained in **Annex 1** of the present document.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopts the revised decisions in Annex 1 of the present document.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Directed to the Parties

16.13 (Rev. CoP17)

- a) Parties should consider promoting actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the national and international levels, including through the governing body of IPBES, as appropriate; and
- b) ~~bearing in mind that IPBES consolidation remains in process,~~ Parties are invited to provide inputs to the Secretariat in order to provide timely responses to IPBES in regard to CITES participation.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.14 (Rev. CoP17)

~~At its 64th meeting,~~ The Standing Committee shall establish a working group on IPBES, including the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to assist its efforts to ensure that:

- a) there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES as well as a contributor to IPBES;
- b) communication between CITES and IPBES for the conveyance of government requests is effective;
- c) ~~the development of the work of programme for~~ IPBES takes into account the needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and related trade decisions; and
- d) CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines ~~particularly the deadline of 5 May 2013 for requests to and suggestions for the initial IPBES work programme.~~

Any inputs to IPBES developed by the intersessional working group shall, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee, be conveyed to IPBES by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee shall consider ~~at its 66th meeting,~~ the need for drafting a resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES.

The Standing Committee shall report at the ~~178th~~ meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

16.15 (Rev. CoP17)

The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17);
- b) subject to external funds, participate as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and
- c) report regularly to the Standing Committee on their activities under paragraph a) above.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.16 (Rev. CoP17)

The Secretariat shall:

- a) under the policy guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, and in cooperation with the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on IPBES, established pursuant to Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17), continue to track and contribute to the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies;
- b) subject to external funds, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES;
- ~~c) explore with other biodiversity-related conventions possible means for facilitating cooperation between the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the IPBES Secretariat once the latter is established;~~
- ~~cd)~~ seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat; and
- ~~ed)~~ report regularly to the Standing Committee, as well as at the ~~178~~¹⁷⁹th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the results of this work.

UNITED
NATIONS



BES

IPBES/4/11



**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services**

Distr.: General
19 November 2015
Original: English

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Fourth session**

Kuala Lumpur, 22–28 February 2016
Item 5 (h) of the provisional agenda*

**Work programme of the Platform: scoping report for a thematic
assessment of sustainable use of biodiversity**

**Scoping for a thematic assessment of sustainable use of
biodiversity (deliverable 3 (b) (iii))**

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its third session, in its decision IPBES-3/1 on the work programme for the period 2014–2018, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the initiation of scoping, primarily using virtual approaches, for a thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools, for consideration by the Plenary of the Platform at its fourth session. In response to the decision, a scoping report was developed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, supported by an open access web-based consultation, or e-conference, held from 7 to 25 September 2015. The present note constitutes the scoping report. Additional information on the e-conference is available in the note by the secretariat on the scoping process on the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control (IPBES/4/INF/12).

II. Scope, rationale, utility and assumptions

A. Scope

2. The objective of the proposed thematic assessment is to assess various approaches to sustainable use of wild species and to strengthen related capacities and tools in line with the objectives of the Platform. Human use of wild species is a dominant driver of changes in biodiversity, with implications for the benefits of nature to people and quality of life. The assessment focuses on practices and measures for the use of wild species that enhance sustainability. Hence, it will take an integrative approach, recognizing the inseparable unity of nature and human culture. The assessment examines the range of governance regimes, practices and approaches that have aimed at promoting the sustainable use of wild species, encompassing modern technologies and indigenous and local knowledge and methods, diverse patterns of sustainable management and harvesting, land tenure, gender-based roles and uses, and implications for State decisions and policies. The assessment corresponds to Strategic Goal A (targets 3 and 4) and Strategic Goal B (targets 6 and 7) of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, which aims to reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promote its sustainable use.

3. The assessment is solution oriented, recognizing sustainable use as a means to ensure that the needs of both present and future generations are met. In accordance with the text of the Convention on

* IPBES/4/1.

Biological Diversity, sustainable use of biodiversity is defined here as the “use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations” (article 2). Hence, sustainable use is also an effective tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The report will assess existing knowledge, taking into account examples and best practices at regional and global levels. It needs to be understood in the context of the regional and global assessments of the Platform, which are to cover many aspects of sustainable use and with which the assessment would be coupled. Because of that and of the need to further specify the otherwise very wide theme of sustainable use of biodiversity, also considering the financial and temporal limitations of the Platform’s work programme for the period 2014–2018 and of deliverable 3 (b) (iii) in particular, a limited number of categories of use of wild species that occur in all regions is selected. Such categories correspond to the sustainable harvesting, use and trade of wild species for the following uses:

- (a) Provisioning of food and medicines, including hygiene;
- (b) Provisioning of raw material, including precious woods, and energy supply;
- (c) Provisioning for ornamental purposes, including trophy hunting, trade of skin and fibre and trade of living pets.

5. Those topics relate to important biodiversity-related issues and cut across various dimensions and scales, such as wild species in marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.

B. Geographic coverage of the assessment

6. The assessment will be global, encompassing sustainable use of biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems in the four regions approved for the regional assessments of the Platform.

C. Rationale

7. The sustainable use of biodiversity promotes the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services while providing opportunities for socioeconomic development. Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity means tackling threats such as overexploitation of threatened wild species. The benefits of sustainable use of biodiversity apply at the local, national, regional and international levels.

8. Knowledge about the importance of wild species (ecological, economic, social and cultural aspects), about the drivers of their use and about a range of policy instruments and management systems is considered vital for developing approaches to the sustainable use of biodiversity.

D. Utility

9. The assessment will contribute to the development, promotion and establishment of approaches to the sustainable use of biodiversity, identify knowledge gaps and highlight opportunities for improvement, drawing on diverse sources of knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge. It will also contribute to the development of policy support tools and strategies, to the enhancement of sustainable management schemes, to aiding compliance and enforcement measures and to addressing capacity-building needs.

10. Work under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity is of particular interest given that the aim of CITES is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. In addition, sustainable use of biodiversity is the second objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is explicitly referred to in Aichi Biodiversity Targets 3, 4, 6, 7 and 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

E. Assumptions

11. The proposed assessment will be based on existing scientific literature and national assessments and will draw on the work of existing institutions and networks (see section V below on relevant stakeholders and initiatives). The assessment expert group, which will be diverse in terms of skills, gender and global coverage, will also be able to draw upon a list of references of published and grey literature, along with comments assembled during the e-conference scoping process. Confidence terms as outlined in the Platform’s guide for assessments will be assigned to all findings.

12. The expert group will also endeavour to assess the regional state of sustainable use by building synergies with indigenous and local knowledge systems, because local communities of farmers, hunters, fishers and other local government officers and experts may hold relevant knowledge of the history, pathways, changing impacts and effectiveness of efforts to achieve sustainable use of biodiversity. The approaches and procedures for working with indigenous and local knowledge outlined in the Platform's guide for assessments will inform the process.

13. The assessment expert group will consist of 2 co-chairs, 50 authors and 10 review editors, who will be selected in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables following a call for nomination after approval of the Plenary. The group will be supported by a technical support unit, comprising one full-time equivalent professional staff member.

14. As requested by the third session of the Plenary, the Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, has developed a coordinated approach for the regional and subregional assessments and the thematic assessments. Under such an approach, 10 authors with expertise in sustainable use have been included in each of the four regional assessments. The 40 experts will contribute to both the regional assessments and, by virtual means, the thematic assessment of sustainable use. In addition, 2 of the 10 sustainable use experts from each of the regional assessments will be fully integrated, as lead authors, in the expert group for the sustainable use assessment in order to ensure full coherence among all assessments regarding work on sustainable use.

III. Chapter outline

15. The thematic assessment will consist of a technical report with five chapters and a summary for policymakers drawing key messages from those chapters.

16. **Chapter 1** will introduce the concept of sustainable use. It will provide a critical assessment of sustainable use principles, including recognized standards on sustainable use of biodiversity, the precautionary principle, the importance of sustainable use to local communities and livelihoods, the importance of sustainable use of biodiversity to national economies, the contribution of sustainable harvesting of wild species to habitat and biodiversity conservation, and synergies with biodiversity-related conventions, specialized agencies and other stakeholders. It will also define what is meant by "wild species" and by their sustainable harvest, use and trade. In order to implement actions regarding sustainable use, it is necessary to understand the interactions and relationships between historical process and political and economic decisions. The chapter will address the two crucial aspects of biodiversity and sustainable use: intragenerational and intergenerational equity. The Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity are recognized as a vital point of departure. Further, the chapter will identify indicators to be used in the assessment and introduce the outline of the assessment report, which is structured around three broad consumptive categories of use of wild species for food and medicine, raw material and ornamentation.

17. **Chapters 2, 3 and 4** will review the effectiveness of the sustainable harvesting, use and trade of wild species within each of the three consumptive categories (food and medicine, raw material, and ornamentation), in a structured manner based on the conceptual framework of the Platform. The main focus of the chapters is an assessment of practices, norms, governance systems, policy instruments, decision support tools and methodologies of sustainable harvesting, use and trade of wild species. They will take into account different patterns of management to which wild species are and have been subjected, ranging from relatively small-scale indigenous, traditional and local arrangements and practices to larger-scale and more highly industrialized, technologically intensive and commercially-driven management approaches, and from local to international trade regimes. Within the context of the three categories of use, the chapters will address the importance of wild species to human well-being, ranging from commercial harvesting to subsistence harvesting, and including marine and terrestrial species. The chapter will assess benefits derived from wild species, impacts of the use of wild species on nature, ecosystems and ecosystem functioning, the effectiveness/success of sustainable use initiatives/examples and the drivers (indirect and direct) that regulate changes to such use. The chapters will further analyse trends and possible scenarios of future use of wild species and their implications with a view to providing an objective account of the ecological, commercial and social factors that affect the positive or negative impacts of harvest and trade on wild populations and their habitats, ecosystem services and other socioeconomic and cultural assets.

(a) **Chapter 2** will focus on the provisioning of food and medicines, including the harvesting of marine species, subsistence harvesting of terrestrial vertebrates, such as bush meat, and agricultural use of wild species. It will also include diverse aspects of wild species, providing medicine

and medical and hygienic applications from plants, animals and fungi, and will address issues such as bio-prospecting and bio-piracy;

(b) **Chapter 3** will focus on the provisioning of raw material, including the harvesting (commercial or subsistence) of timber and precious wood species, wood fibre and other non-timber forest products used as non-food raw materials, such as materials for construction, energy supply and livestock forage;

(c) **Chapter 4** will focus on the use of wild species for ornamental, cultural and recreational purposes, including trophy-hunting, harvest and trade of skins, furs, feathers, fibre, ivory and corals, as well as the harvest and trade of living pets and plants, such as exotic fish species, birds and orchids.

18. **Chapter 5** will bring together conclusions and lessons from across the three preceding chapters, synthesizing them and presenting future options for sustainable use, including a compilation of policy support tools and management guidelines (for example, best practices, procedures and planning processes) on sustainable use. There will be a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement to strengthen capacity-building and knowledge generation, also with regard to existing indigenous and local knowledge.

IV. Indicators, metrics and data sets

19. The assessment will review the use and effectiveness of existing indicators for assessing sustainable use, such as those developed by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and will explore other possible indicators that could be used.

20. The assessment will survey the availability of data, recognizing that the scoping process indicated that such data are likely to be very patchy globally. Data selected for use in the assessment should allow for disaggregation according to relevant variables such as environment/system, taxa, level of income, health standards and equality.

21. Both formal scientific methods and indigenous and local knowledge systems should be considered, including the extensive body of research that has been documented in all regions of the world, in which there is a wealth and diversity of sustainable use practices and community-based management systems elaborated by indigenous people and local communities to conserve biodiversity. Participatory monitoring efforts by local people have increased the information available for assessments, especially those assessments documenting resource consumption. It is important to indicate the gaps and the efforts required regarding data sets that are currently unavailable due to inaccessible format or costs. Thus, open access databases and virtual institutes for data exchange and analyses are needed to develop, integrate and deploy infrastructure for the monitoring and assessment of ecosystem services.

V. Relevant stakeholders and initiatives

22. The core principles of successful assessments (relevance, credibility and legitimacy) are best achieved through the strategic and effective participation of stakeholders in the assessment process. Having a diverse range of stakeholders involved in an interactive process based on dialogue and reciprocity can promote knowledge and information exchange and allows different groups to express their positions and interests on a variety of issues.

23. Relevant stakeholders and initiatives include Multilateral Environmental Agreements, United Nations programmes, international commissions, national Governments, scientific advisory groups, scientific organizations, networks, programmes, research centres and specialist organizations working in support of governance processes.

24. An increasing number of intergovernmental arrangements at the regional level play important roles in combining science and policy in biodiversity and ecosystem governance. Relevant stakeholders are also to be found among civil society organizations, in the business sector and among internationally recognized and active non-government organizations and indigenous and local communities, including traditional knowledge holders and landowners.

25. In addition, indigenous people and local communities have set up their own forums and platforms, and there are networks interested in supporting the work of the Platform's task forces on indigenous and local knowledge, capacity-building and knowledge and data management.

VI. Capacity-building

26. Regarding capacity-building activities in the context of the Platform, the list of priority capacity-building needs approved by the Plenary at its third session will be used in the proposed sustainable use assessment, which will include in particular the fellowship programme allowing young research fellows to participate in the assessment and the training and exchange programmes currently developed by the task force on capacity-building.

27. The Platform could make an important contribution by strengthening the human capital and institutional infrastructure to develop approaches to sustainable use. There are large differences between countries in their capacities. Efforts to develop sustainable approaches will not be successful unless they are coordinated and supported across each country's government agencies. The Platform could help to develop a governance model and capacity that integrate all of those factors and stakeholders, including aspects of entrepreneurial sustainability management, corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship.

28. Capacity-building will aim to improve human, institutional and technical capacities in the long term for the informed and effective implementation and use of assessments, for the development and use of policy support tools and methodologies and for improving access to necessary data, information and knowledge and indigenous and local knowledge systems. It will draw upon the assessment and aim to improve the science-policy interface. An important capability may well be the expertise to develop sustainable management plans.

29. The assessment will identify scientific and other skills gaps that are hindering the development of sustainable use approaches, such as taxonomy, active adaptive management, structured decision-making, environmental norms and practices, cultural resources, systematic conservation planning and associated infrastructure.

VII. Process and timetable

30. The proposed process and timetable for preparing the assessment report, including actions, milestones and institutional arrangements, are set out below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
2016	
First quarter	The Plenary at its fourth session approves the conduct of the thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, asks for offers for in-kind technical support for the assessment and requests the secretariat, advised by the Bureau, to establish the necessary institutional arrangements to put in place technical support The Chair, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders of experts
Second quarter	Secretariat compiles lists of nominations The Panel selects the assessment co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors using the approved selection criteria set out in decision IPBES-2/3 (IPBES/2/17, annex) Meeting of the Management Committee (co-chairs, head of the technical support unit and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel/Bureau members) to select remaining expert team and respective roles (coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors) Selected nominees contacted, gaps filled and list of co-chairs, authors and review editors finalized
Second/early third quarter	First author meeting with 57 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, eight liaison experts involved in regional assessments (two experts for each of the four regional assessments), Panel/Bureau members
Fourth quarter	Zero order drafts of chapters prepared and sent to the secretariat (technical support unit)
2017	
First quarter	First order drafts of chapters prepared and sent to the secretariat (technical support unit) Compilation of chapters into first order draft (six weeks)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
Second quarter	First order draft of collated regional and subregional sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity assessments sent for expert review (six weeks, June/July) Collation of review comments by secretariat technical support unit for first order draft sent to authors (two weeks)
Early Third quarter	Second author meeting (35 participants, including 8 liaison experts involved in the regional assessments, Panel/Bureau, co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and review editors)
Third quarter	Second order drafts of chapters and first order draft of summary for policymakers prepared (five to six months)
2018	
First quarter	Second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent for government and expert review (two months)
First quarter	Collation of review comments for second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent to authors (two weeks)
Second/Early Third quarter	Third author meeting with 67 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors and Panel/Bureau members
Third/Fourth quarter	Final text changes to the assessment and the summary for policymakers (six months)
2019	
First quarter	Translation of the summary for policymakers into the six official languages of the United Nations
First quarter	Submission of the assessment, including the translated summary for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to the Plenary session (six weeks)
First quarter	Final government comments on the summary for policymakers for consideration by authors prior to the seventh Plenary session
May (To be confirmed)	The Plenary at its seventh session to approve/accept the summary for policymakers and the technical report respectively

VIII. Cost estimate

31. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting and preparing the assessment report.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Estimated costs (United States dollars)</i>
2016	Meeting of co-chairs and secretariat/technical support unit	Meeting costs (1/2 week, five participants, in Bonn)	0
		Travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) (3 x \$3,750)	11 250
	First author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, liaison experts and Panel/Bureau)	Cost of venue (corresponding to 75 per cent, to be complemented with 25 per cent in kind); 56 participants	18 750
		Travel and DSA (42 x \$3,750)	157 500
Technical support	One full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000	
2017	Second author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, review editors, liaison experts, Panel/Bureau)	Cost of venue (corresponding to 75 per cent, to be complemented with 25 per cent in kind); 38 participants	7 500
		Travel and DSA (30 x \$3,750)	112 500
	Technical support	One full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2018	Third author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, liaison experts, review editors)	Cost of venue (corresponding to 75 per cent, to be complemented with 25 per cent in kind); 67 participants	18 750

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Estimated costs (United States dollars)</i>
	and Panel/Bureau)	Travel and DSA (51 x \$3,750)	191 250
	Technical support	One full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
	Dissemination and outreach		117 000
2019	Participation of 12 experts, including co-chairs and several coordinating lead authors and lead authors in the seventh session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (9 x \$3,750)	33 750
	Technical support	Five months of one full-time equivalent professional position (50 per cent in kind)	31 250
Total			924 500

ADVANCE